

without children, will receive little or no relief from the recently enacted tax cuts. Therefore, it is imperative, I believe, that we provide the American people with more tax relief.

In the next few days I will introduce a proposal that offers the next logical step in our efforts to increase the take-home pay of the American people. My proposal, the Taxpayer Relief and Protection Act, cuts marginal tax rates across the board by 5 percent, it eliminates the marriage penalty, and it moves the tax filing date from April 15 to November 1.

This proposal benefits every American who earns a paycheck. It injects some fairness into the Tax Code, and makes it harder for Washington politicians to raise taxes in the future.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

CRUNCH TIME FOR CAMPAIGN REFORM

(Ms. DELAURO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, Sunday's New York Times says it all. It is "crunch time for campaign reform." The leader of the other body has even promised his Members a vote on campaign finance reform next month.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you, where is our vote? Where is the vote in the people's House? There have been 85 campaign finance proposals introduced, but there has been not one hearing on campaign finance reform. The Republican leadership is giving us no opportunity to debate the issue on the floor of this House and no opportunity to vote on any one of these 85 proposals.

The New York Times editorial goes on to say that "There are legislators in both parties who want to preserve a system that makes money more important than the public will."

Mr. Speaker, please prove that you value the will of the American people over your campaign coffers. Live up to the promise you made in New Hampshire over 2 years ago. Schedule a vote on campaign finance reform today.

CAMPAIGN LAWS BEING BROKEN

(Mr. TIAHRT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TIAHRT. Mr. Speaker, the President wants the Federal Government to set national standards for education. How well will it work? I think it will work at least as well as our campaign laws.

Last year campaign laws, which are a form of national standards, were twisted, turned, and outright broken. In Kansas, according to the Wichita Eagle, the Democrat National Party violated the law by laundering some \$315,000 through individuals and county parties.

The first part of campaign reform is to obey the laws we have on the books today. The Democrat National Party apparently broke the laws by coming into our communities, while money laundering is not one of the values our communities like to uphold. Likewise, we do not need Washington to set our educational standards in the communities.

□ 1415

Kansas already has educational standards. Let us not degrade educational standards to the level of campaign laws.

TED TURNER'S GIFT

(Mr. LEWIS of Georgia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, Ted Turner's \$1 billion gift to the United Nations is remarkable. This man saw a problem in this country, in this world, and he decided to help. He did not have to act, but he wanted to make a difference, and he will.

Ted Turner's gift is an inspiration to us all. It should inspire Congress to pay our debt to the United Nations. Bosnia, El Salvador, Somalia, as a community of nations, we have helped millions around the world.

Ted Turner's gift should also inspire each and every one of us to serve. Even though we all cannot give large amounts of money, we can care, we can get involved, in our schools and our neighborhoods, and we can make a difference.

So thank you, Ted Turner. You have reminded us all to be a little more caring and do a little more sharing.

AMERICANS ARE IGNORANT OF OUR NATIONAL HERITAGE

(Mr. PAPPAS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PAPPAS. Mr. Speaker, a recent poll showed that the majority of Americans do not even know the most basic facts about American history. Just listen to these revelations.

Six out of ten respondents did not know that the Revolutionary War began in 1775. Sixty percent did not know that Thomas Paine wrote "Common Sense," the political manifesto that helped inspire the revolution. Eighty-nine percent did not know that James Madison wrote the Bill of Rights. Thirty-six percent could not identify George Washington as the subject of the phrase, "First in war, first in peace, and first in the hearts of his countrymen."

In sum, the birth of this great Nation is a mystery to most of its citizens.

What can explain this development where generations of children graduate from school lacking in basic knowledge about American history? Academic

fads, the substitution of nonsense for facts, the denigration of Western ideals and American achievements, and an utter lack of standards that are actually enforced. Unless that changes, generations will continue to graduate ignorant of our national heritage.

CAMPAIGN INTEGRITY ACT OF 1997

(Mr. ALLEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. Speaker, those of us who are freshmen experienced the 1996 elections in a different way. There was soft money involved in those elections on a scale never before seen. Issue advocacy groups were participating in the election on a scale that has never happened before.

Beginning in February, our Freshmen Task Force sat down and tried to figure out how we could pass real campaign finance reform in this session. We proposed a soft money ban. That bill is now H.R. 2183, the Campaign Integrity Act of 1997. It bans soft money, it provides new restrictions or new requirements for disclosure on issue advocacy, and it tightens up candidate disclosure. It is a good bill. It needs to come to the floor of this Congress for a vote.

Mr. Speaker, I urge the Republican leadership and the other side not simply to keep investigating without legislating; bring this bill to the floor, and let us give the Members of this Congress a chance to do something besides investigate. Let us change the way we finance campaigns. Let us vote on the bill.

ROBERT STODOLA HOMELESS ASSISTANCE ACT

(Mr. METCALF asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. METCALF. Mr. Speaker, recently I introduced legislation to assist homeless veterans. H.R. 1754, the Robert Stodola Homeless Assistance Act, will require that at least 20 percent of the McKinney Home Assistance Act be allocated for activities designed to serve homeless veterans. Many veterans' organizations have joined me in support of this legislation. Approximately 30 of my colleagues have joined in sponsoring this bill.

In time of need, we ask our veterans to defend this Nation. It is time for us to provide for their needs. Helping homeless veterans is a small price to pay to these people who in many cases have risked their lives so that we may remain free.

I am asking my colleagues to assist me in support of this worthwhile legislation by cosponsoring H.R. 1754.

FAST TRACK DEBATE

(Mr. BROWN of Ohio asked and was given permission to address the House